



**Good times and good friends await you in Knoxville,** a vibrant and beautiful river city with an abundance of great restaurants, nightlife, museums, shopping, family fun and national championship sports. It's a warm, welcoming place with its own distinct history, spirited arts community and blessed with the natural beauty of the Tennessee River and the Great Smoky Mountains.

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## **ENJOY NATURE IN LOCAL PARKS AND GARDENS**

Knoxville is blessed by breathtaking scenery and an abundance of recreational opportunities. The city has a mild climate and four distinct seasons. From the blooming dogwoods of spring to the brilliant colors of fall, residents and visitors can get outside and enjoy the many blessings of nature.

Because of Knoxville's central location, visitors can easily travel to the six national parks located within 90 miles of the city. Additionally, tourists can take advantage of the numerous parks and gardens located within the heart of the city.

### **National Parks and Recreational Areas**

***Andrew Johnson National Historical Site*** – Travel 65 miles northeast of Knoxville to Greeneville, Tenn., to discover President Andrew Johnson's early home and homestead, burial site, the tailor shop in which he worked, visitor center and museum.

***Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area*** – Travel 60 miles northwest of Knoxville to explore an area offering 125,000 acres for hiking, rafting, canoeing, swimming, horseback riding, camping, fishing, mountain biking, animal watching and numerous nature photography opportunities. Scenic railroad excursions are also offered. The visitor centers are located near Oneida, Tenn., and Stearns, Ky.

***Cherokee National Forest*** – Travel 50 miles southeast of Knoxville to find this national forest covering more than 640,000 acres in 10 Tennessee counties along the state's eastern border, split by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There are 700 miles of hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking trails and 11 designated wilderness areas.

***Cumberland Gap National Historical Park*** – Travel 60 miles north of Knoxville to the largest National Historical Park in the United States that offers 20,000 acres of trails for hiking,

horseback riding and bicycling. Picnic areas are available as well as a 160-site campground with running water, bath facilities and numerous backcountry campsites. The park abounds with Native American and pioneer history.

***Great Smoky Mountains National Park*** – Travel 40 miles southeast of Knoxville to the most visited national park United States, receiving over nine million visitors every year. The park has 520,000 acres that encompass more than 850 miles of trails for hiking and horseback riding, 735 miles of streams for fishing, many developed and backcountry campsites, spectacular scenery and views from peaks over 6,000 feet and several visitor centers with interpretive exhibits and artifacts. In 2009, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

***Obed Wild and Scenic River*** – Travel 40 miles west of Knoxville to this park consisting of approximately 5,000 acres of federal and state lands stretched along 45 miles of rivers and streams. Visitors enjoy some of the most challenging whitewater boating experiences in Eastern North America. Other recreational opportunities include camping, picnicking, sightseeing, rock climbing and fishing.

### **Notable Parks and Gardens within Knoxville**

***World's Fair Park*** – Located adjacent to the Knoxville Convention Center in downtown Knoxville. With all its lovely landscaping, wide, open spaces and wonderful water features, the park provides endless possibilities for celebrating life in Knoxville. The park is a state-of-the-art urban paradise that incorporates most of the major landmarks from the 1982 World's Fair, which was held in Knoxville, and combines them with the rich environmental features that are characteristic of the region. Dogwoods are in abundance as well as vast open lawns – perfect for picnics – and various fountains and streams reflecting Knoxville's close proximity to regional parks and recreational areas.

***The Parks of Sequoyah Hills*** – Situated just moments from the University of Tennessee and downtown Knoxville on Kingston Pike, Sequoyah Hills's sense of history, community and belonging is evident from the moment one sets foot beyond the arch at the entrance to Cherokee Boulevard. Sequoyah Hills first began development along the banks of the Tennessee River almost a century ago. Known for its prestigious homes built in the 1920s and '30s, the area is also known for its three parks, walking trails and greenways. Stroll down Cherokee Boulevard, spend some time by the Talahi Fountain, continue past Pappoose Park and enjoy a rest on the benches surrounding Panther Fountain. Grab a bite to eat at the Sequoyah Hills Café and Market and end your visit with a trip to the Sequoyah Library.

*Gardens at Crescent Bend* – Built in 1834 by Drury Paine Armstrong, this historic property was once the center piece of a 600-acre working farm and named Crescent Bend for its prominent setting which provides a panoramic view of the Tennessee River and mountains. Manicured formal Italian Gardens feature nine terraces and five large fountains provide an open-air setting of magnolia blossoms, roses and thousands of colorful blooming flowers.

*Gardens at Ramsey House Plantation* – The Ramsey House Plantation is a 1797 historic home set on 100 acres of rolling Tennessee hillside in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. The plantation maintains vegetable and flower gardens on the property. While most of the plants grown are heirloom plants, some are native plants (ones that occur in the region without introduction). Several different varieties of beans, corn, peas, and gourds are grown, and the plantation uses these vegetables to harvest their seeds. All of the plants grown on the plantation are from Tennessee or other Southern gardeners. The flower gardens bloom in late March while the vegetable gardens peak in late July and early August.

*University of Tennessee (UT) Gardens* – Established in 1983, the UT Gardens function as an outdoor laboratory to evaluate the performance and landscape use of every type of plant, from trees and shrubs top annuals and perennials to ornamental grasses and aquatic plants. Perhaps one of the most important values of this nationally recognized garden is the fact that it is located in the mid-south where gardening and landscaping can be quite challenging. Because of the extreme summer heat and humidity common to Tennessee as well as the variable winters where plants experience frequent freezing and thawing, the test gardens are important proving grounds for the leading commercial seed and plant companies located around the world, who ultimately determine what plants reach the commercial market. The gardens are planted to demonstrate each plant's ideal use in the landscape. In this manner, visitors are not only able to see which plants thrive and flourish in the Tennessee climate, but gain ideas on garden design and how to use plants in their own landscapes and gardens as well.

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*The Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corporation promotes the Knoxville/Knox County area as a premier destination for conventions, sports-related events & leisure travelers to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of the City and County, while generating economic impact & development.*

**“It’s All Here, Just for You. Enjoy!”**

[www.Knoxville.org](http://www.Knoxville.org)